RESOLUTION NO. 078-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ARCATA ADOPTING THE "GREEN FLEET POLICY," ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR 'GREENING' THE CITY FLEET

WHEREAS, The growing problem of global climate change necessitates action, and

WHEREAS, it is the role of local government to lead the community towards actions that will assist in minimizing the impacts associated with climate change, and

WHEREAS, The City of Arcata Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan mandates a 20% reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions by the year 2010, and

WHEREAS, 27% of the City greenhouse gas emissions in 2000 were attributed to the fleet, and

WHEREAS, traditional fuel prices have increased dramatically and will continue to do so, and

WHEREAS, addressing fuel efficiency and considering alternative fuel vehicles will not only help the City in reaching its self-mandated 20% reduction in greenhouse gasses; it will also help the City to save considerable amounts of money, and

WHEREAS, the City of Arcata passed a proclamation in 2001 in support of a plan to green the City fleet,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Green Fleet Policy of the City of Arcata shall be implemented in the following manner:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

Alternative Fuel- Fuel that is not based on petroleum (exemptions include the petroleum diesel mixed with biodiesel fuel blends.) Examples of alternative fuel vehicles include electric cars, hydrogen fuel cell and / or hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles, biodiesel, and natural gas.

Biodiesel- A fuel produced from organic vegetable oils, sometimes blended with petroleum based diesel fuel; for the purposes of this policy, biodiesel is meant to mean the highest available blend of organic oils.

Ultra-High Efficiency Vehicle- Vehicles receiving a score of 9 or higher on the EPA fuel efficiency rating (scale of 1-10, based on 2007 figures). This rating requires a combined city and highway mileage of 36 miles to the gallon for unleaded and 41 miles to the gallon for diesel.

Local- Within 100 miles of the City of Arcata.

Green Vehicle Review Team- A cross-departmental team consisting of those who participate in vehicle purchases. The Team shall review purchase requests to confirm compliance with the policy. Will include, at minimum, a member of the Environmental Services Department, a representative from the Public Works Department, a representative from the Finance Department, and a representative from whichever Department is requesting the purchase.

Vehicle Procurement- Any method of adding a vehicle to the City fleet, be it purchasing, leasing, or other.

SECTION 2. OBJECTIVES

The goal of this policy is to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the City fleet. The target reduction is 10% of fuel use by the year 2015. This shall be achieved in increments of 1% reduction in fuel use by department by year. The Public Works Department shall document deviations from this reduction target annually, including information on why the reduction target was not met and proposed actions to meet the target in the future.

SECTION 3. MEASURES FOR GREENING THE CITY FLEET

1. Purchasing Policy

Fuel efficiency shall be a top priority in the procurement of vehicles. This purchasing policy shall be consistent and in compliance with Resolution No. 056-46, the Environmental Purchasing Policy, as well as any City, State, or Federal laws regarding procurement of municipal property. While considering a vehicle or piece of equipment for purchase, ultra high efficiency vehicles shall be purchased whenever possible. When not possible, the vehicle with the highest efficiency that meets the needs of the department shall be selected. Alternative fuel vehicles shall take priority over traditional fuel vehicles. Heavy duty or diesel engine vehicles shall be selected based on their compatibility with biodiesel. Where possible, diesel vehicles should be run on biodiesel. Hybrid vehicles offer up to 46 miles per gallon (average street and highway figure based on 2007 EPA information). This means a potential savings of up to 50% on fuel for each vehicle replaced with a hybrid (assuming 23 MPG Chevy S-10, 2007 EPA figures). In the FY 2005-2006, the City spent $105,961.24 on fuel. A 10% reduction could yield over $10,000 worth of savings in fuel costs alone, not taking into consideration the rapidly rising cost of petroleum-based fuel. In addition, allowances shall be made for higher cost fuel purchases in the case of biodiesel,

and particularly in the case of local fuels. To comply with the policy, all vehicle purchases must be reviewed to ensure they meet department needs, adequate safety standards, as well as the guidelines established through this policy.

2. **Inventory**

An essential part of improving the City's fleet is assessing the current fleet and tracking use. Building off of the existing inventory compiled by the Public Works Department, an additional column will be included to track greenhouse gas emissions of each vehicle. It is the responsibility of the Public Works Department to compile this inventory, and the responsibility of the Environmental Services Department to contribute the information on greenhouse gas emissions. This inventory will serve as the baseline for all future tracking and comparison, and will be assessed annually by the Green Vehicle Review Team.

3. **Optimize Fleet Size**

Following the completion of the inventory, old and under-used vehicles and equipment shall be targeted for priority replacement and / or eliminated from the fleet. Additionally, vehicles that are over-sized for their use shall be replaced with a more appropriate and fuel efficient alternative. Vehicles slated for removal shall be auctioned off and replaced, if necessary, with more fuel-efficient alternatives.

4. Alternative Fuels

There are currently several viable options for fuel sources other then petroleum. The City is encouraged to consider biodiesel as an alternative to diesel fuel. Biodiesel should consist of a minimum blend of B20, and the highest available blend should be purchased when available. Additionally, Biodiesel fuel should be from Waste Vegetable Oil sources (WVO), whenever possible. Electricity is also considered an alternative fuel, though it is encouraged that any electric vehicles be coupled with the promotion of renewable energy systems such as solar panels. Finally, natural gas and hydrogen gas are also alternatives to petroleum-based fuel. Natural gas should be obtained from recaptured sources if possible, such as methane from landfill gas, or anaerobic digestion. Similarly, hydrogen production should be supplemented as much as possible by renewable energy sources. This list should not be considered exhaustive; as technologies develop, progressive, clean burning fuels are likely to come on the market. The City supports providing a market for proven 'green fuels.'

5. Encourage New Transportation Technologies

As emerging technologies come to the market, the City shall participate in pilot programs of new vehicle and equipment types. The City also encourages the purchase of new models of fuel-efficient equipment where appropriate, as stimulating the market for these technologies will have a positive impact on their availability in the community. The Green Vehicle Review Team and the Energy

Committee should review all emerging technologies to ensure that they are both appropriate for City use and a prudent investment of City funds.

6. Establishment of a Green Vehicle Review Team

The internal Green Vehicle Review Team will have the role of reviewing the Green Fleet Policy progress and effects on typical fleet usage. Additionally, a staff member from the Environmental Services Department shall be involved with the team to provide additional perspective as to the effects of the policy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Green Vehicle Review Team shall have access to vehicle purchase processes to ensure that this policy is being carried out in a smooth and effective manner.

7. Police Department

Police Department emergency vehicle purchases are exempt from this policy until such time viable options become available through new technology.

SECTION 4. FUEL SAVING PRACTICES

Fleet replacement and optimization will take some time. The best method for reducing fuel use immediately is to incorporate fuel saving practices into routine use patterns.

1. Idling

State laws currently prohibit idling in many circumstances, especially close to schools. It is recommended that the City shall adhere to the state policy on idling, and encourage all employees to turn the vehicle or equipment off if its stop time is more then thirty seconds. In addition to idling, the time necessary to warm up a vehicle shall be kept at a minimum for engine efficiency.

2. Vehicle Maintenance Schedules

The Central Garage shall provide each Department with a vehicle maintenance schedule to ensure maximum vehicle efficiency. Routine checkups should include checking vehicle fluid levels and tire pressure. A routine check up schedule should be established and maintained. Improving the efficiency of existing fleet vehicles may be the cheapest way to achieve higher fuel economy.

3. Promote Alternative Transportation

Bicycling and foot travel results in an absolute reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. It also has the benefit of improving the health of City employees. The City will provide, when possible, bikes, helmets, and other accessories to make bike transportation more accessible for City personnel, as well as expanding and covering existing bike-parking structures. New and creative methods and incentives for promoting sustainable transportation practices amongst City employees is encouraged.

4. Carpooling

Carpooling can be an effective way to avoid extra cars on the road and build community. A City employee carpooling network shall be developed, where employees will have easy access to find others who share similar transportation patterns. When several employees are traveling to the same meeting or conference, it is highly recommended that a vehicle be shared for the trip.

5. Minimize Vehicle Miles Traveled

Fuel saving practices involve thinking consciously about the amount of travel required to get the job done. Whenever possible, jobs that are located in a similar area should be grouped together to minimize the driving necessary. The City should also explore phone and video conferencing capabilities as an alternative to physical meetings.

6. Take the Bus

The City actively promotes employee use of the bus system around Humboldt County. Work schedules should be flexible to accommodate to bus timetables. The City provides free use of the Arcata and Mad River Transit System free to employees, and methods to reduce cost of bus travel countywide shall considered annually. Increased investment in bus transit can result in more money to purchase higher efficiency buses, and reduce the number of cars on the road.

References:

1. Resolution No. 056-46, Environmental Purchasing Policy
2. City of Arcata Proclamation 18 of April 2001: "Greening City of Arcata Vehicles"
3. City of Arcata Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan
4. State of California Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Best Practices Manual
5. California Code: Public Contract Code, section 12400-12404
6. California State Contracting Manuals, Volume 2, Chapter 2, Section C, Topic 1
7. California Public Resources Code Section 25722, 25725
8. California Health and Safety Code, Section 43810

Sources Cited

1. City of Arcata Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan
2. City of Arcata Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory
3. United States Environmental Protection Agency guidelines on Fuel Economy, available online at: http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/pollenergyfueleconomy.html

This resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

DATED:

ATTEST:

City Clerk, City of Arcata

Mayor, City of Arcata

Clerks Certificate

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. _____, passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Arcata, County of Humboldt, California, held on _____ _____ day of _____, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

City Clerk, City of Arcata